

# *Ensure student learning and achievement is focus*

- Partnership should complement – not derail school's improvement efforts
- Partnership should enhance student learning – and have tools that will measure success
- Partnership should also meet partner's objectives

# *Identifying Partners*

- A partnership is like a marriage – choose carefully!
- Who are your “natural partners”?
- Potential partner’s core interest?
- Ask staff and parent volunteers for ideas
- Be aware of issues with partner that might impact the school

# *Develop well-defined, well-managed program*

- Point person (at school and partner)
- Written partnership agreement
- Policies and procedures
- Evaluation tools
- Recognition programs

# *Make strategic matches*

- “Good fit”
- Shared values
- Close proximity
- “Real” needs

# *Menu of ideas*

Mentoring  
Job shadowing  
Apprenticeships  
One time events  
Tutoring  
Connections  
Donations

# *Clear expectations* *for **both** partners*

- Success hinges on clear expectations
- Define roles and responsibilities
- Goals
- Measurements of success
- Time commitment
- Be flexible with regulations and paperwork

# *Monitor and Evaluate partnership*

- Evaluate on regular, agreed-up basis
- Should be simple, user-friendly and meaningful
- Include data collection
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- As simple as “Stop, Start, Continue”

# *Barriers to Avoid*

Cultural differences

Partners and schools operate differently

Partners may expect immediate results

Absences

Staff Turnover

Partners and schools

Busy school staff

Concerns with pedophiles

Background checks. Make process simple by having forms available.

School staff resistance

Involve staff in determining how partners can be involved

Focus on student achievement and ways to reduce teacher's burden.

Lack of communication

Establish regularly scheduled opportunities to talk

Provide communication tools (newsletters, web site)